(3) agricultural schools, model farms, and seed and manure depots should be freely established;

(4) primary education should be still further extended;

(5) a proper and timely supply of medicines and appliances to the hospitals and dispensaries should be enforced and the Ayurvedic Department expanded;

(6) an economic and industrial survey should be started and cottage industries should be developed;

(7) in education, public health and re-productive works, no retrenchment was possible and it should not be attempted, and the plea of want of funds should not be allowed to affect a progressive course of action in anything that would promote the well-being of the people. If money was wanting, there was no objection to raising it by means of a national debt.

In concluding, he requested that his representations might receive the early consideration of Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

2. The State finance.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that, during the years 1080 to 1089, the revenue and expenditure of the State had risen by leaps and bounds. The increase in revenue was the result of the imposition of additional burdens on the ryots while the rise in expenditure was not on comparatively useful lines. The enormity of the recurring and increasing expenditure was a cause of alarm to the people, and that was the reason which prompted them to bring up the subject pointedly to the notice of Government in successive sessions of the Assembly from 1086. The finances of the State could be placed on a sound footing only if the receipts could be developed or the expenditure curtailed. On the subject of increasing the revenue, he observed that the most convenient sources that would ordinarily be thought of were the land revenue, excise and stamps. He considered that any measure affecting the land would be an oppression to the already over-burdened ryot. He pointed out with facts and figures that the rise in the land revenue during the last decade was half as much again as the rise under the head during the previous four decades put together. Besides the completion of settlement operations, many other adventitious circumstances detrimental to the interests of the ryots favoured the extraordinary rise in land revenue. Taking the Excise Department, the Member said that the rise in the revenue from that department was also equally marked. In that connection he pointed out that, though the number of toddy and arrack shops had shown a fall in recent years, the quantity consumed was steadily increasing. He was of opinion that the Government were, in trying to secure the best revenue under that head, indirectly assisting in the promotion of the use of intoxicating liquors, instead of checking the same, and that the desire for any increased revenue would result in affording better facilities for drinking. No increase under the head was therefore desirable. In regard to stamps he pointed out that the increase of revenue under the head during the years 1080 to 1089 was more than eleven lakhs of rupees, while the corresponding figure for the previous two decades put together was only six lakhs. Such a rise was inconsistent with the object with which stamp was introduced, as stated in the Administration Report for 1059. A further increase would be an oppression to the people.

Coming to the question of the curtailment of expenditure, the Member pointed out that, from 1080 to 1089, the increase under 'salaries' was 110%, 'establishment', 35%, 'allowances to officers', 200%, 'allowances to establishment', 350%, and under 'supplies and services and contingencies', about 200%. The increase under most of the items was abnormal. The pay of some of the heads of departments, such as Public Works, Education and Police, was very high. Further, some of the departmental heads were provided with unnecessary Personal Assistants most of whom had not sufficient work now. Efficiency should be procured at the minimum cost. The system of granting personal allowance, another item of expenditure to be met

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

with frequently, should be done away with. The curtailment of expenditure should properly be made by abolishing the needless appointments in the higher grades and by reducing the salaries and allowances of officers wherever possible, and not by any retrenchment in the salaries of the ill-paid subordinate staff, which would not yield any appreciable amount. He thought that, in the present day, when means of communication had developed considerably, the increase of expenditure under 'allowances' was unnecessary and that the batta and mileage of officers might be reduced with advantage. A greater check on the expenditure under 'contingencies' would bring in a large amount as savings to the Government annually.

As regards the expenditure on public works, he said that the advantages to the people bore no proportion to the large amounts annually spent on such works. He too considered that the staff of Engineers in the Public Works Department was too large and that some of the officers were even complaining of want of sufficient work. He compared the policy of the Government, as laid down in the Administration Report for 1079, regarding the superfluity of the Public Works staff when the Kodayar Works were in progress, to that after it was re-organised and strengthened in 1086, subsequent to the completion of the Kodayar Project. The percentage of cost on supervision was higher in Travancore than in other Native States. He considered that the Deputy Chief Engineer, four Executive Engineers, three Sub-Division officers and a number of Section officers were unnecessary in the department and might be dispensed with.

Dewan.—I may tell you that two Executive Engineers have gone on leave and their places have not been filled up. In the Assistant Engineer's grade, four are now on leave, but substitutes have been appointed only for two, and the remaining two places are not to be filled up.

The Member continued and said that the expenditure on temporary establishment was also very large. In all the estimates, an extra provision of 5% in the case of original works, and 10% in the case of maintenance works, was usually made to meet the cost of the temporary establishment. The staff employed with the amount was mostly working in the several offices from the Division to the Section. If, from the estimated amounts for works, the cost of the temporary staff and the profits of the contractors were deducted, the absence of any sense of proportion between the outlay expended and the works constructed would be patent. The present system gave room for much abuse, and the Member strongly urged the necessity for reducing the cost considerably under that head. In regard to the works, the amount spent was never a matter for consideration with the department. Existing works were demolished for minor faults or even for aesthetic reasons. The cost on buildings bore no proportion to the use for which they were intended. In that connection, the Member complained that the irrigation authorities were insisting on court fee stamps on petitions regarding irrigation matters presented to those officers and said that it was unjust and hard that a fee should be charged on such petitions.

Dewan.—This will be looked into.

The Member then pressed the need for having an Engineer-Secretary in the Huzur Office to scrutinize the estimates of the Public Works Department. The officer appointed should be given a decent scale of pay so that he could have no attraction for promotion in the department, and he should also be a Native. The Member next referred to the Police and Education Departments as having inflated establishment. He was of opinion that the Sanitary Department, as it now existed, was of no use to the people and that the present Sanitary Commissioner paid no heed to rural sanitation. He pleaded for the abolition of the department, and, if that was not possible, for the reduction of the establishment charges and the transfer of the department to a more sympathetic officer.

In conclusion, he said that he would support the proposal of the previous speaker, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, regarding the imposition of an income tax on Government officers, vakils, merchants, medical practitioners and the like, and also the levy of export duty on tea, rubber and timber.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) sa
the State expenditure during the past few years was sanctioned without due r
the nature of the revenue receipts. There was consequently a deficit during
two years, which was bound to increase in course of time when the re-organisa
the various departments had their full effect. The revenue had already attained i
mum. He therefore considered that a financial equilibrium could be maintai
by curtailing the expenditure. Taking department by department, he said t
staff of the Public Works Department was out of all proportion to the wor
were expected to execute. Over a fifth of the allotment for the departr
absorbed by the staff, and the major portion of the remainder spent on costly b
in the headquarters. The large allotment for public works did not therefore
the people of the State as a whole. He suggested the desirability of giv
portant works on contract to the lowest tenderer in an auction, held afte
cation, in the Gazette, of a notice regarding such auction sufficiently early to
bidders. Coming to the Sanitary Department, he too considered that the
ment, as at present constituted, was a source of unnecessary waste of mone
might be abolished, leaving the vaccination section alone with a limited nun
supervising officers under the control of the Darbar Physician. In the Forest
ment, he said that the income was not commensurate with the very large area
forests. The small increase in receipts during recent years was due to the rai
the tariff rates for timber and the book adjustment of the price of timber, etc., s
to other departments. The receipts from the minor forest produce were nom
were capable of considerable development. He advocated the desirability of r
ing the export duty on timber and of reducing the tariff rates to three-
of the present rates, and said that those measures would also develop
venue of the department in the long run. In the Education Depa
the officers of the higher grade were paid very large salaries. The T
College would, in a short time, be found unnecessary, as all the schools of th
would soon be equipped with the adequate trained staff. The expe
on school buildings was also extravagant. He next pointed out the uselessn
Circle Inspectors in the Police Department, of the Assistant Excise C
sioners in the Excise Department, and of a few of the Assistant Head Sirkar
and District Court Sirkar Vakils. He urged that officers of approved mer
capacity might be retained in service until they were sixty years old, as their
retirement would result in loss to the service and at the same time swell the ex
ture under the head of pensions. The scales of pay of officers might be perma
reduced and the difference, if any, between the new scale and their present pay, s
to the present men as personal allowance. He also supported the proposal t
export duty on tea and rubber.

Dewan's reply.— Noted.

3. Need for a more liberal and equitable distribution of the annual budget allotments for public works, agriculture and sanitation among the several taluks and towns of the St

Mr. T. N. Achutha Panikkar (Member, T. I. C., Parur) said that the
was pressed on the attention of the Government at the previous sessions of t
sembly, but nothing had so far been done in the matter. He was of opinion t
present distribution of the annual budget allotments was not fair in respect of
northern taluks. The allotment for each taluk under the heads of public works, a
ture and sanitation should bear a reasonable proportion to the revenue of a taluk
population, but the present system of distribution was not conducive to that en
improvement of the Chathanad-Kuriapalli road, in the Parur taluk, sanctio
the Government as the result of the many years' prayer of the people, did not
place in the budget for the current year, though works of less importance ha
provided for. At the time of the construction of the Petchipara dam at an en
cost, the people of Central and North Travancore were told that their needs
be attended to after the completion of the work. Soon after, the Governme
launched into another costly work, *viz.*, the construction of the Extens
the Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum, also at an enormous cost cons

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly